

## Today's News - Tuesday, September 25, 2012

- Moore is cheered by "two small initiatives" in Liverpool that "offer glimmers of hope where there has not been very much" in neighborhoods otherwise "blighted in the name of regeneration" (a.k.a. housing market renewal).
- A snapshot of what New Zealand could/should/might be by 2050.
- A great series of articles home in on Auckland's waterfront and its "history of missing the boat": the city "must continue to find the courage to let good architecture and urban design take the stage."
- King reports on the "revision of the revision" to San Francisco's Transbay Tower: it has been "refined to give it a more distinctive appearance on the skyline, especially at night" (with lots of pix).
- Amazon offers updated renderings of its proposed Seattle HQ (with a fuzzy, cuddly new nickname).
- More on the architectural bait-and-switch for NYC's Riverside Center and why it "irks" some city officials: "why is it that we're approving envelopes for buildings and not buildings?"
- Following an "onslaught of criticism," New York Public Library "dials back plan" to move 4.5 million books to New Jersey (now 3.3 million of them will remain on site).
- SANAA designs a serpentine "River" to grace Grace Farms in New Canaan, Connecticut (water not included).
- Two young Buffalo architects have high hopes to transform a historic Flint, Michigan, mortuary into piece of art ("working somewhat in the manner of a cross between the Rural Studio and Gordon Matta," Stephen Zacks told us).
- Malcolm Fraser offers his pick of a wonder and a blunder in Edinburgh.
- Chipperfield "lambasts politicians for lack of interest in architecture" (along with "architects' impotence").
- Meanwhile, Libeskind "calls for greater public involvement in architecture."
- Chan reports on the recent Blouin Creative Leadership Summit, where architects and designers drew lots of lines in the sand when it came to cross-discipline collaboration, "and then proceeded to muddle them."
- Knight ponders whether "Pacific Standard Time" was worth it: "High on the list of L.A. shibboleths: The city has no history. For art, that stereotype is now as dead as a doornail - thanks to PST."
- Beijing Design Week kicks off this Friday, with the focus on highlighting design's role in society.
- World Architecture Day 2012 launches in London Oct. 1 with a "new initiative dedicated to sustainable urban development."
- Winners all: 2012 National Design-Build Awards + SC2012 Links: Bridging Rivers Competition.

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Liverpool Biennial: ...neighbourhoods, blighted in the name of regeneration, are now being helped by the city's art Biennial: ...two small initiatives...offer glimmers of hope where there has not been very much...it is easy to spot the zones blessed by HMR [housing market renewal]. They are the wrecked ones, the hopeless ones...The hope is that these small, community-based projects will be the model for many more, which will collectively counter the effects of HMR. By Rowan Moore - Observer (UK)

Beyond the horizon: The future isn't what it used to be: What sort of country will New Zealand be halfway through this century? Here's a snapshot of what Godzone could be like. - New Zealand Herald

City has a history of missing the boat: Experts say Auckland needs to learn from its mistakes and not pass up another opportunity to turn the waterfront into a highlight of the city..."Auckland must continue to find the courage to let good architecture and urban design take the stage." -- Auckland Architecture Association; Waterfront Auckland [images, links] - New Zealand Herald

Tweaked S.F. tower plans up for approval: ...revision of the revision adds highly visible connections to the rooftop park planned for the new Transbay Terminal...In addition, the crown of the 1,070-foot-tall tower has been altered to give it a more distinctive look. By John King -- Pelli Clarke Pelli; PWP Landscape Architecture [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

New Renderings of Rufus, Amazon's Seattle Campus: In response to recommendations, the evolved design includes updates to elevations, details along the lower stories, weather protection, and open spaces. -- NBBJ [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Architect Switch Irks City Officials: The design dust-up highlights a pitfall in the process of winning public approval...architects and developers aren't tied to projects, allowing the reality of what is ultimately built to look quite different from early renderings..."The larger question is, why is it that we're approving envelopes for buildings and not buildings?" By Eliot Brown -- Christian de Portzamparc; SLCE Architects; Frank Gehry; SHoP Architects; Ellerbe Beckett - Wall Street Journal

New York Public Library Dials Back Plan to Move Books: ...an \$8 million gift that will allow the library to expand storage space under Bryant Park...came under an onslaught of criticism from scholars and writers opposed to the idea of shifting nearly 3 million books...to a storage facility in Princeton, N.J...As a result, 3.3 million of the building's 4.5 million volumes will remain on site. -- Foster + Partners - Wall Street Journal

A 'River' runs through scaled-down Grace Farms plans: Nestled into the rolling landscape...the building of glass, concrete, steel and wood is in essence a single long roof, which seems to float some 10 feet above the surface of the ground as it twists and turns across the landscape. -- Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; OLIN [image] - New Canaan Advertiser (Connecticut)

New York architects aim to turn historic Flint mortuary into piece of art: Mathieu Bain and Andrew Perkins, of Buffalo, are helping rehab an abandoned house formerly used as a funeral home using recycled materials...could house future visiting artists brought in by the Flint Public Art Project... [images] - Flint Journal (Michigan)

Wonders and blunders with Malcolm Fraser: He loves how Edinburgh's Commonwealth Pool complements its surroundings, but is left cold by another building's [Dynamic Earth museum] attempt to mimic nature. -- RMJM; Michael Hopkins [images] - Building (UK)

David Chipperfield lambasts politicians for lack of interest in architecture: ...complains of architects' impotence: Politicians are only interested in architecture in relation to regeneration or the construction industry...He also lamented the "shrinking role" architects play in shaping British cities. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Daniel Libeskind calls for greater public involvement in architecture: Successful cities must give citizens a role in development decisions: "A city is based on human beings. Unless it's built on a participatory, democratic principle the city will not have a future." - BD/Building Design (UK)

Top Architects and Designers Debate Forces Shaping Innovation at Blouin Creative Leadership Summit: ...what began as a general consensus about cross-discipline collaboration soon dissolved into a more complicated and contradictory understanding of the hybridized field of architecture and design. By Kelly Chan -- Charles Renfro/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Mickey McManus/MAYA Design; Phillip Anzalone/Columbia University GSAPP; Gisue Hariri/Hariri & Hariri; Anne Guiney/Institute for Urban Design- Artinfo

"Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980" exhibitions changed a cultural stereotype: ...deserved recognition for its achievement. Now, imagine the future possibilities. Was it worth it? Every great city comes larded with clichés...High on the list of L.A. shibboleths: The city has no history. For art, that stereotype is now as dead as a doornail — thanks to PST. By Christopher Knight [images, links]- Los Angeles Times

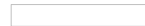
Beijing Design Week Highlights Design's Role in Society: First launched in 2009, this will be the first design week after Beijing was named a "City of Design" by UNESCO this June...September 28th to October 6 -- Aric Chen- China Radio International (CRI)

World Architecture Day 2012: London: landmark summit where creativity meets commerce...including the inauguration of our World Cities Network - an exciting new initiative dedicated to sustainable urban development; October 1- World Architecture News (UK)

2012 National Design-Build Award Winners -- BBL Architects; Tetra Tech; JWDA/RJC Architects; Haskell; KPB; KSGW Architects; CDM Smith; TranSystems; Carrier Johnson + Culture; Dreyfuss & Blackford, Architects; Gulf Coast Architectural Group; Morris Architects; Fentress Architects; HMC Architects; CH2M HILL; etc. [images]- Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)

Winners announced in SC2012 Links: Bridging Rivers Competition for students and young architects...Spanish architectural magazine future arquitecturas called for innovative ideas of how to build a habitable bridge in Chongqing (China) and Seville (Spain). [images, links]- Bustler

"Just Trying to Do This Jig-Saw Puzzle": How architecture's and urban design's practice can change through studying of a little-appreciated Renaissance art, intarsia. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow.com



-- Coop Himmelb(l)au: Busan Cinema Center, Busan, South Korea  
-- Amateur Architecture Studio/Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu: China Academy of Art, Zhuantang Town, Hangzhou City, China

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